

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1883-8124PCT	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US03/11570	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 16 April 2003 (16.04.2003)	(Earliest) Priority Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 16 April 2002 (16.04.2002)
Applicant THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

**1. Basis of the Report**

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2.  Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3.  Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

as suggested by the applicant.

None of the figures

because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

because this figure better characterizes the invention.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

1/US03/11570

**Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)**

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

**NEW ABSTRACT**

A system and method (Fig. 1) for automated handling and identification of parcels sorted by an automated high-speed mail sorting apparatus that identifies parcels that contain hoax or biological threat material comprising an opener (120) and a particle sampler (170), wherein said sampler analyzes air flow created as the parcels are compressed by pinch rollers (140).

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/US03/11570

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : B07C 5/00  
US CL : 209/576, 577, 589

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 209/576, 577, 579, 583, 589, 900, 939

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
EAST (search terms: mail sorting biohazard anthrax contaminant powder poison germ smallpox explosive hazardous)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, Y	US 2002/0124664 A1 (CALL et al) 12 September 2002 (12.09.2002), figures 1, 2a-2d; paragraphs 0111-0139.	1-3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16-19
E, Y	US 2003/0119175 A1 (STRADLEY et al) 26 June 2003 (26.06.2003), figures 1-3, paragraphs 16-25.	1-3, 14, 16, 17, 20
E, Y	US 6,573,836 B1 (GITIS et al) 03 June 2003 (03.06.2003), figures 1-7, 11, and 13; column 5, line 17-column 9, line 18.	1-5, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20
E, Y	US 2003/0115998 A1 (BELEC et al) 26 June 2003 (26.06.2003), figures 2-12, paragraphs 21-43.	7, 9, 10, 14, 18, 19
E, Y	US 2003/0113230 A1 (CORDERY et al) 19 June 2003 (19.06.2003), paragraphs 37-49.	7, 14, 18
E, A	US 2003/0121839 A1 (RYAN, JR. et al) 03 July 2003 (03.07.2003).	
E, A	US 2003/0136203 A1 (YOON) 24 July 2003 (24.07.2003).	

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
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* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search  25 July 2003 (25.07.2003)	Date of mailing of the international search report  20 AUG 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer  Donald Walsh Telephone No. 703-308-1113  